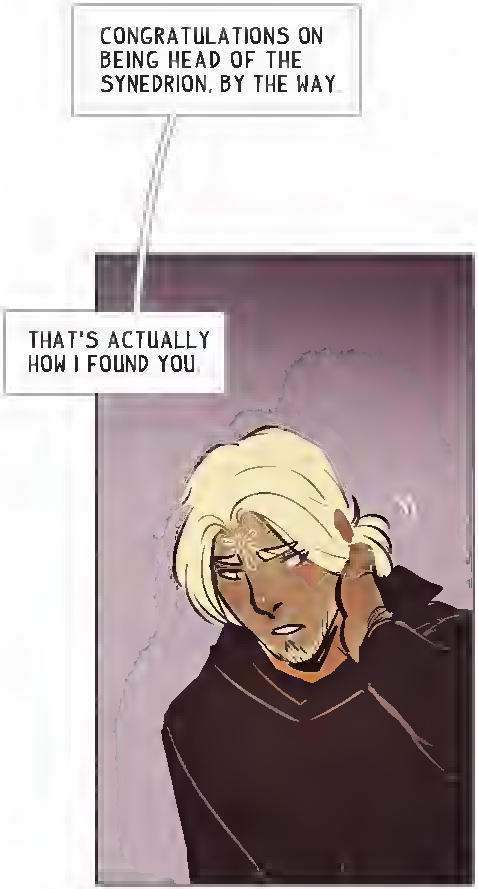
UNDER THE AEGIS

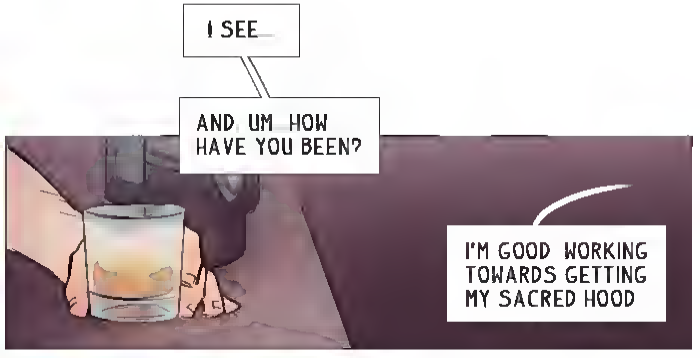
BY VIMEODIEE

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
I'M...I'M HERE WITH A MAGEIAN DELEGATION.

THE HIGH PRIESTESS WANTS CONTACT WITH BASILEIA.
SINCE I KNOW THE CITY AND ITS WAYS I VOLUNTEERED
YOU'VE BEEN...LIVING WITH THE MAGEIANS?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT

Tic...
Tic..
Tic..


CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING HEAD OF THE SYNEDRION, BY THE WAY.
THAT'S ACTUALLY HOW I FOUND YOU.


I SEE...
AND UM HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'M GOOD WORKING TOWARDS GETTING MY SACRED HOOD

AND...I, UH...
I HAVE A SON

A SON...?

I KNOW IT SOUNDS
...SURPRISING

I WAS...IN A REALLY BAD PLACE FOR A WHILE

THE HIGH PRIESTESS FOUND ME.

NOT LONG AFTER WHAT HAPPENED

MAGEIAN POWER IS NEVER WASTED.

SO THEY TRIED TO REHABILITATE ME.

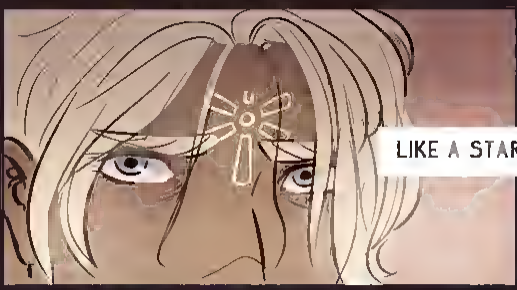
BUT I DIDN'T REALLY ACCEPT IT EITHER

IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT THE HATRED YOU HAVE FOR YOURSELF

WHEN YOU'RE TREATED LIKE AN OUTSIDER BY YOUR OWN PEOPLE

BUT I STUDIED
AND I LEARNED.

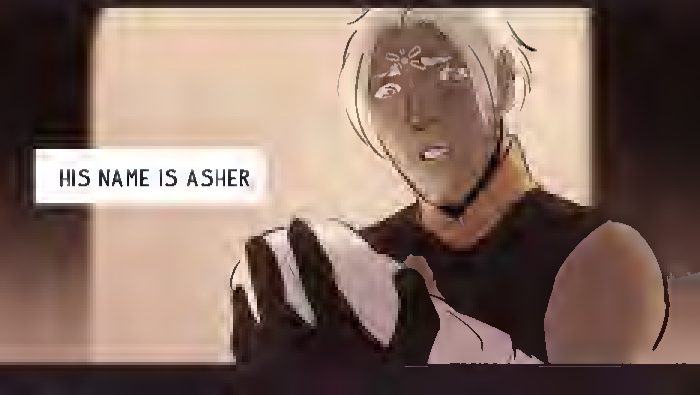
AND I WAS DESPERATE FOR ANY KIND OF CONTACT...


LIKE A STARVED MAN.

TRYING TO FORGET,
TO DENY WHO I WAS

BECOME SOMEONE ELSE

ONCE WAS ALL IT TOOK



HE WAS BORN NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO.

AND HE'S THE REASON I'VE STAYED ALIVE.

WELL...I'M...
CONGRATULATIONS.
THANKS...
HIS...MOTHER WANTS TO BECOME THE NEXT HIGH PRIESTESS...
NOT A PARENT.

SHE CARES ABOUT ASHER IN HER OWN WAY, BUT I'M FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM...
AND I WANT TO BE THE KIND OF FATHER HE DESERVES.
THAT'S ANOTHER REASON WHY I HAD TO SEE YOU.

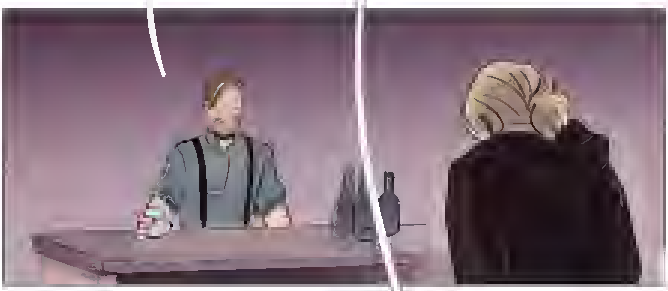
I CAME HERE TO CLOSE A CHAPTER IN MY LIFE.

I--I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW DEEPLY *SORRY* I AM. FOR ALL I DID TO YOU

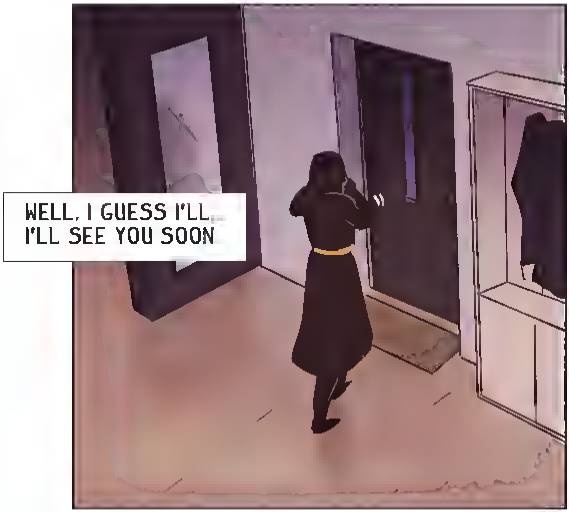
I KNOW THIS DOESN'T AMOUNT TO MUCH--

CYRUS--

I JUST THOUGHT THAT TALKING TO YOU BEFORE MEETING OFFICIALLY WOULD BE A BETTER IDEA

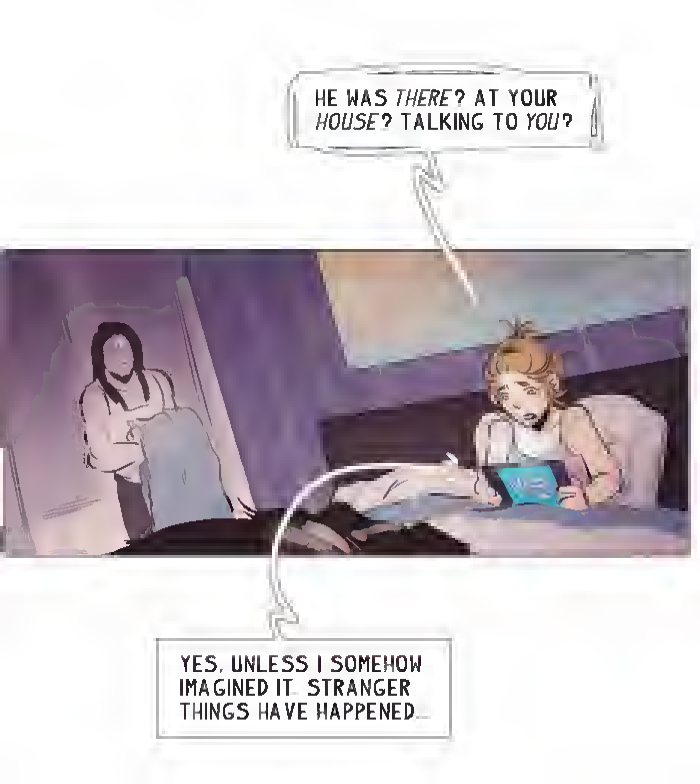


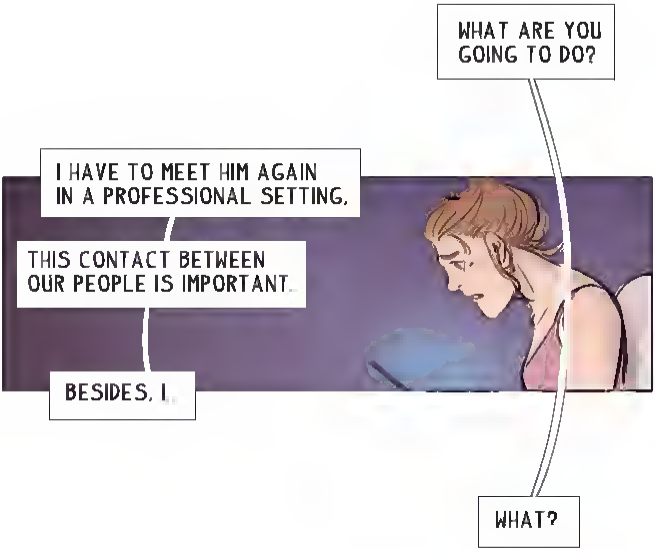
AND MAYBE BRING SOME CLOSURE


WELL, I GUESS I'LL,
I'LL SEE YOU SOON

SHUT

CYRUS??

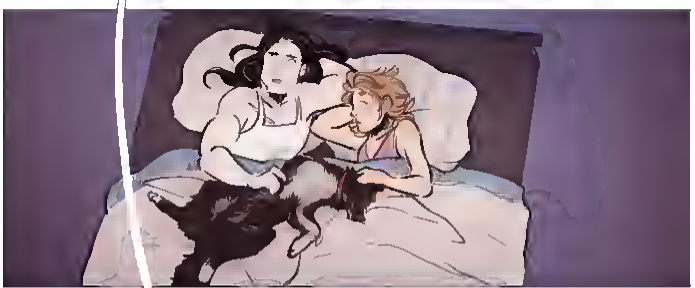

HE WAS *THERE*? AT YOUR *HOUSE*? TALKING TO *YOU*?
YES. UNLESS I SOMEHOW IMAGINED IT. STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED...


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I HAVE TO MEET HIM AGAIN IN A PROFESSIONAL SETTING.
THIS CONTACT BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE IS IMPORTANT.
BESIDES, I...
WHAT?

...I NEVER THANKED HIM FOR SAVING MY LIFE

LATER...

MATTIE, ABOUT TOMORROW...



I MIGHT BE A LITTLE LATE. I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO FIRST

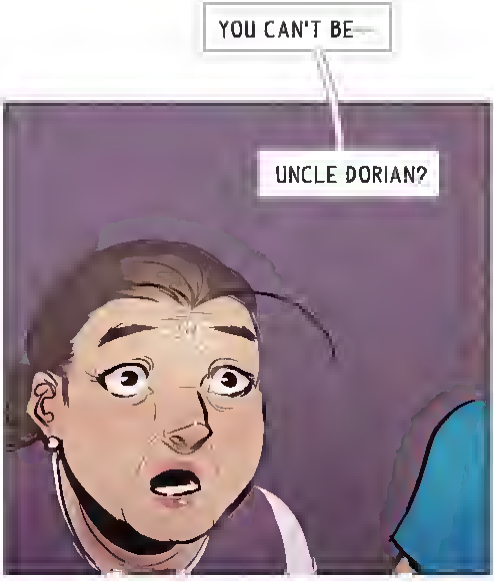
YOU FOUND THEM...!

KNOCK
KNOCK

YES?
HELLO! UHH, I'M UHH...
IS YOUR NANA HOME--?

WHO IS IT, DEAR?

H-HELLO.
Y-YOUR MOTHER WAS MY SISTER.
I'M STILL--I'M--

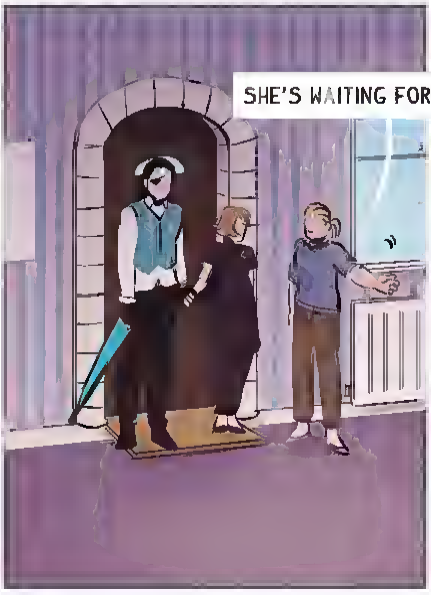

YOU CAN'T BE—
UNCLE DORIAN?

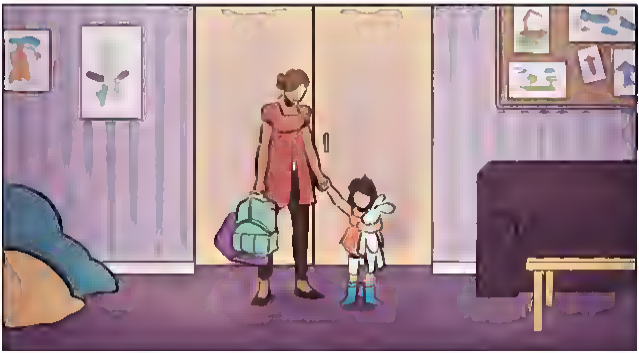
OH, COME IN, COME *IN!*

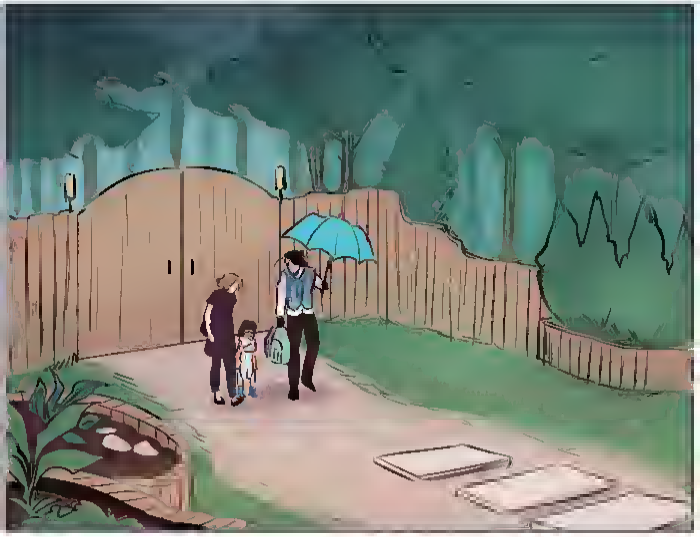
HOW DID IT GO?
TOGETHER
HOME FOR CHILDREN

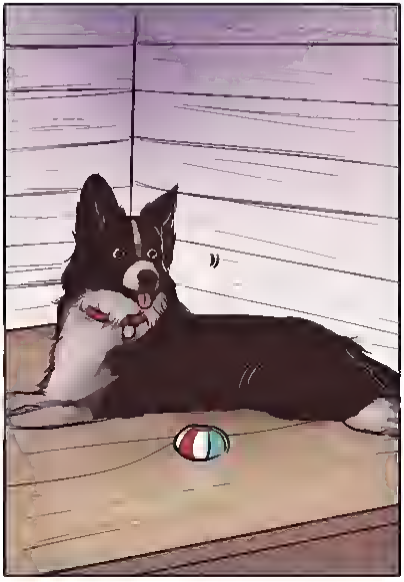
REALLY WELL
I'LL TELL YOU THE REST TONIGHT

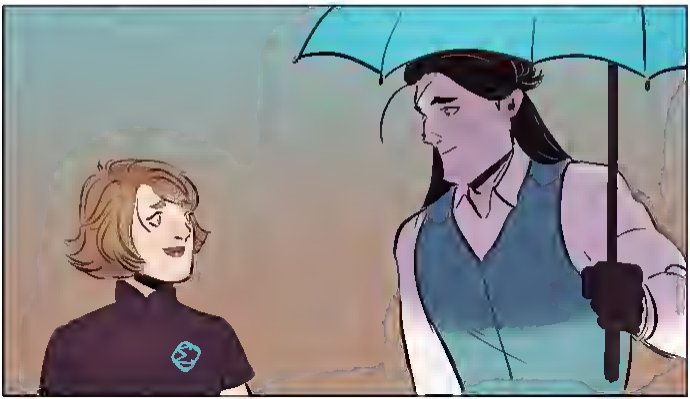
RIGHT NOW I'M READY


SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU.

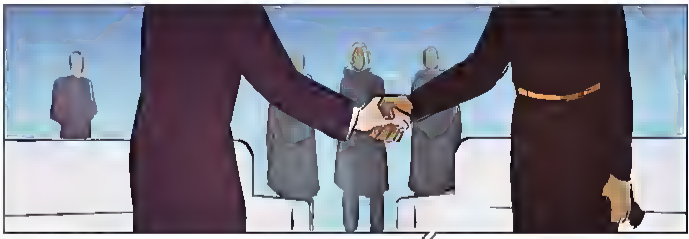








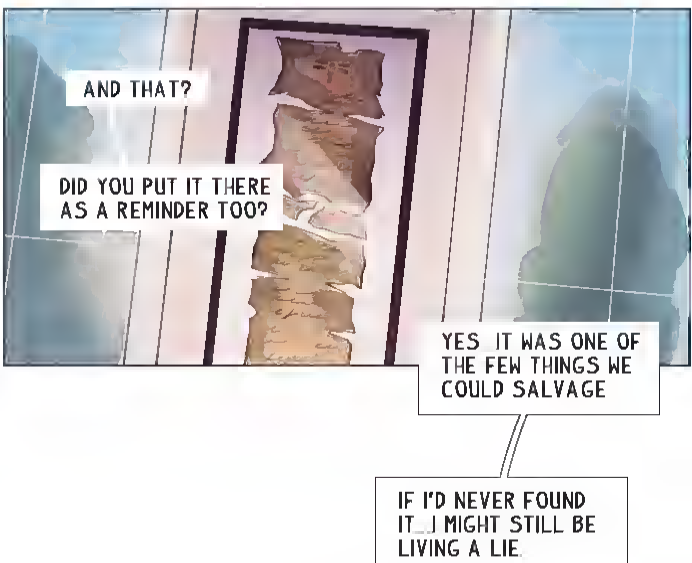
UNTIL NEXT WEEK. THEN
WE CAN DECIDE ON WHAT TO DO WITH THE RITUAL SITE.


NEXT WEEK. THANK YOU, COUNCILMAN

IT'S A GOOD IDEA

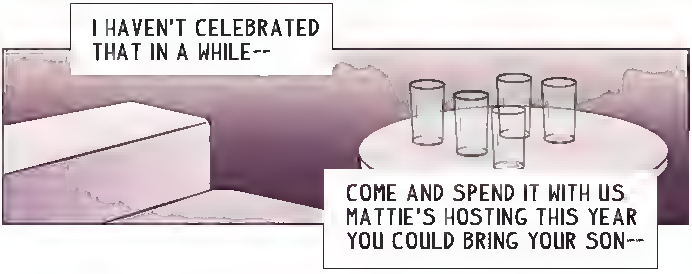
HMM?
MAKING THE RITUAL SITE
A MUSEUM. PROTECTING IT.

REMEMBERING BOTH WIELDERS AND MAGEIANS IS IMPORTANT.
AND THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO DO
I AGREE.


AND THAT?
DID YOU PUT IT THERE AS A REMINDER TOO?
YES. IT WAS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS WE COULD SALVAGE
IF I'D NEVER FOUND IT...I MIGHT STILL BE LIVING A LIE.

WHO DO YOU THINK PUT IT THERE FOR YOU TO FIND?
MAYBE I DIDN'T WANT TO KEEP LIVING A LIE EITHER

CYRUS, WAIT.
I. ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING FOR WIELDER'S DAY?


I HAVEN'T CELEBRATED THAT IN A WHILE--
COME AND SPEND IT WITH US. MATTIE'S HOSTING THIS YEAR. YOU COULD BRING YOUR SON--

ARGUS, I DON'T THINK THAT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA—
YOU'LL BE IN BASILEIA FOR THE DURATION OF THE TALKS ANYWAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE RIGHT NOW.

THANK YOU.
...I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.